

CONGRESSMAN ED PASTOR
TRIBUTE

HON. RUBEN GALLEG0

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a statement by Greg Stanton, Former Phoenix Mayor, Congressman-Elect.

Arizona lost one of its greatest servant leaders with the passing of Congressman Ed Pastor. His humble nature, gentle style and beautiful sense of humor belied a brilliant tactician. His tremendous success in public service is directly related to his understanding of human nature: treat everyone, regardless of station in life or political party, with sincere dignity, respect and love. And he delivered overwhelmingly for the people of Arizona. Millions of people's lives were helped because of "the big guy."

Without Congressman Pastor's leadership, in Arizona, there would be no light rail, no bus service improvements, no Rio Salado riparian habitat development, no Sky Harbor Airport upgrades, thousands of students would not have been able to afford college. The list is virtually endless. The impact on our state due to his strategic action is unsurpassed. But he never once bragged about his success. He was a true "workhorse" not a "showhorse".

But his legacy goes way beyond physical improvements to our state. In an era of such partisan tribalism, Congressman Pastor showed by his actions a wiser path: he was a partner to both Democrats and Republicans in this Congress. Members of both parties, and all wings within those parties, liked him and trusted him. We can all learn much from how he went about his business.

And he loved everyone right back. Its why he took the time to mentor thousands of people looking to make a difference in our community through politics and policy: myself included. He taught all of us to lift up the next generation. That's his most important legacy which will pay the most long-term dividends for our state.

Nicole and I loved Ed Pastor. He passed on his passion for public service to his family, all of whom are great leaders in our community. I had the good fortune to work closely with City Councilwoman Laura Pastor. We offer Verma, Laura, and Yvonne our sympathies . . . but mostly we give them our thanks for sharing this great leader with the people of Arizona.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
CHARLOTTE'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Charlotte, North Carolina on the 250th anniversary of its founding. I am proud to hail from Charlotte, and I want to celebrate the Queen City on this momentous occasion.

As a graduate of A.G. Middle School, Myers Park High School and UNC Charlotte, I hold a very special spot in my heart for this amazing city. Throughout its history, Charlotte has time and again shown the ingenuity and resiliency which allowed it to grow into the prosperous hub it is today. And that ingenuity and resiliency

comes down to one common factor—the people who have called Charlotte home over two and a half centuries.

Take the founding of Charlotte way back in 1768. Mecklenburg County and Charlotte Town were named for Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, wife of English King George III. Despite these overt ties to England, the local leaders of Charlotte banded together in 1775 to issue the Mecklenburg Resolves, the very first declaration of independence from Great Britain by any governing body in Colonial America.

Or take the fact that Charlotte has grown from a regional banking center to the second-largest financial center in the country behind only New York City. This growth was something many scoffed at until a committed group of local visionaries grew a few regional banks into Bank of America and Wachovia, two of the largest financial institutions in the world.

The ingenuity and resiliency of Charlotte and its citizens have allowed the city to grow into not only the largest city in the Carolinas, but also one of the fastest-growing cities in the entire country the past 30 years. While Charlotte has boomed, it has also retained the Southern charm and quality of life that's made it such a wonderful place to live. Folks from across the nation have flocked to Charlotte with good reason—as the slogan goes, "Charlotte's got a lot."

I'm fiercely proud of my hometown and I can't wait to see what the next 250 years have in store for the crown jewel of the Carolinas.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating the City of Charlotte on its 250th anniversary.

THE FIGHT FOR VICTIMS MUST GO
ON—THE VICTIMS' RIGHTS CAUCUS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, prior to being elected to Congress in 2004, I spent 30 years as a criminal prosecutor and Judge in Houston, Texas. During that time, I encountered the worst of the worst in our society, from abusers to rapists to murderers. Even more painfully, I watched as countless victims of violent crime were utterly failed by the system. Victims were often thrown in jail, sent back to their abusers or just left to fend for themselves. It felt like the ultimate miscarriage of justice. Also during this time, I came across a type of criminal that I had never imagined flourished in this country—the human trafficker.

Most Americans believed that human trafficking was an over-seas problem, not something that was occurring in their very own backyards. This lack of awareness allowed sex traffickers and the buyers of trafficking victims to practically walk free. It became very clear to me that something drastic had to be done to help victims of crime and raise awareness about these new rapidly expanding criminal enterprises in our country.

As a matter of first priority after being elected to Congress, I founded the Victims' Rights Caucus (VRC) with Representative JIM COSTA (D-CA). Our mission was to create a bipartisan coalition of Members to represent the in-

terests of victims of crime, generate awareness about how pervasive violent and sexual crime was in our country and increase resources available to law enforcement to combat the problem.

Since its inception in 2005, the Caucus has taken the lead to protect programs that provide critical support for victim services throughout the nation, including the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA) and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPPRA). The Caucus was instrumental in the enactment of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, the Cruise Vessel Safety and Security Act, the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011, the SAFER Act of 2013, the Victims of Child Abuse Reauthorization Act, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act and the Justice for All Act (JFAA).

The VRC works closely with victims' rights organizations, shelters, advocacy groups and criminal justice reform groups. Every year, the Caucus hosts various briefings on victims' rights issues including domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, human trafficking as well as various other topics. We also recognize National Crime Victims' Rights Week with our annual awards ceremony and policy forum.

I am tremendously proud of the progress we have made as a nation to better support victims of crime and crack down on criminals. Topics like human trafficking, sexual abuse and domestic violence are no longer considered taboo. Counseling, resources and shelters are much more readily available to victims of crime. Both human traffickers and those caught buying human trafficking victims are now being prosecuted equally to the fullest extent of the law. I believe the VRC has greatly contributed to these successes so far, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

Since deciding to retire at the end of my current term, I have put a lot of thought into who should replace me as co-chair of the VRC. Recently, I reached out to my good friend and fellow Texan PETE OLSON to offer him the position. He enthusiastically accepted. Representative OLSON is a hard-working, caring and dedicated public servant, and I know he will work tirelessly to further the successes of the VRC.

I wish him and Representative COSTA the best in their continued fight on behalf of crime victims. I have no doubt that Caucus will achieve many great things in the months and years to come.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING JACK MILES

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Jack Miles, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Jack worked in my Indiana office for nearly a year, serving as a member of our political operations team. Jack has an incredible work ethic and was a tremendous asset to our team.

On a personal note, Jack is a humble and positive teammate. I admire Jack's commitment to public service, and I have no doubt